

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES

FOR MINISTER BELL AND LTG DOLVIN FROM WYROUGH

----- I.

THIS IS MESSAGE NO. 5 FROM THE DEPARTMENT RESPECTING THE
NOVEMBER 1975 NEGOTIATING ROUND.

----- II.

1. TRAGEN SWEARING-IN CEREMONY. SWEARING IN IS NOW
SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 1 AT 12 NOON. UNFORTUNATELY, AS
YOUR TRAVEL PLANS NOW STAND, YOU WILL BE ENROUTE TO LOS
ANGELES. WE HAVE TENTATIVELY RESERVED NOVEMBER 26 AT
3:20 P.M. FOR YOU TO MEET WITH IRV.

2. FOLLOW-UP CABLE. WE HAVE SENT A SECOND CABLE TO ARA
POSTS FOLLOWING UP ON YOUR OVERVIEW MESSAGE OF LAST WEEK

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AND REPORTING ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS (UAW AND CHAMBER OF COM-

MERCE RESOLUTIONS, PEREZ COMMENTS TO ROWAN AND MCGEE-BUSINESSMEN MEETING.)

3. BARLETTA VISIT. PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IS MAKING PLANS, WHICH INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS, FOR BARLETTA VISIT 12/1-12/5. PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO ATTEND CEPICIES MEETING. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL HOST A LUNCHEON. SENATOR MCGEE IS PLANNING A RECEPTION FOR CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS ON THURSDAY. AMBASSADOR BUNKER, ROGERS, RYAN, THE TWO OF YOU, VEYSEY AND OUR STAFF WILL BE INVITED TO PANAMANIAN EMBASSY RECEPTION ON FRIDAY.

4. EXERCISE LAMBDA. YOU MAY RECALL THAT LAST JULY AT DEPARTMENT REQUEST THE JCS POSTPONED EXERCISE LAMBDA, A POLITICAL-MILITARY SIMULATION WHICH PLACED THE PANAMA ISSUE IN A CENTRAL ROLE. DURING NEXT WEEK'S CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE, ARA MAY WISH TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF REQUESTING THAT THE JCS RESCHEDULE EXERCISE LAMBDA IN A MID-SUMMER 1976 TIMEFRAME. ARA WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL NEGOTIATOR REACTION AS TO ACCEPTABILITY FROM NEGOTIATING VIEWPOINT OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE.

5. CONDUCT OF RELATIONS INSPECTION REPORT. WE HAVE COMPLETED REVIEW OF DRAFT COR INSPECTION REPORT AND HAVE ARRANGED WITH S/IG TO DELAY RETURNING OUR REPLY UNTIL 11/26 IN ORDER TO GIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW FOLLOWING RETURN TUESDAY. WE WILL PLAN BRIEFING NEXT WEDNESDAY MORNING ON REPORT WHICH WE REGARD FAVORABLY.

6. BUNKER-ACHESON CONVERSATION. DAVID ACHESON HAS ADVISED THAT HE WILL BE LUNCHING WITH CURTIS MUNSON ON 11/24 AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AT EARLIEST CONVENIENT TIME SIGNED LETTER THAT HE PREVIOUSLY GAVE TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER.

7. CANAL ZONE CONSTRUCTION. BY LETTER OF 11/18, CO-CHAIRMEN PCNWG HAVE ADVISED AMBASSADOR BUNKER OF FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE CANAL ZONE:

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-- 300 MILITARY HOUSING UNITS (100 AT GULICK AND 200 AT CLAYTON) AND 48 PCC UNITS. BIDDING PROCESS UNDERWAY; CONSTRUCTION SHOULD COMMENCE SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION OF BIDDING.

-- COROZAL COMMISSARY. BIDS NOW BEING REQUESTED FOR 324,000 DOLLARS ADDITION OF HUMIDITY CONTROLLED STORAGE SPACE (PROJECT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS OPERATIONAL IMPROVE-

MENT OF EXISTING FACILITY.)

-- FRENCH CANAL BRIDGE TO FT. SHERMAN. 1.4 MILLION DOLLARS REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED.

8. CORAL GABLES SPEECH. AN OFFICIAL OF AN EXXON SUBSIDIARY HEADQUARTERED IN CORAL GABLES HAS EXTENDED AN INVITATION ON BEHALF OF THE CORAL GABLES LIONS CLUB FOR A MID-DAY SPEAKER ON 12/3. ORGANIZATION REPORTEDLY HAS PROMINENT LOCAL MEMBERSHIP AND HAS BEEN EXPOSED ONLY TO OPPONENTS' VIEWPOINT. AS YOU RECALL, CORAL GABLES IS HOME TERRITORY TO ARTHUR DENCHFIELD -- ONE OF THE MORE VOCAL OPPONENTS OF NEGOTIATIONS. COUNCIL OF AMERICAS REP HERE AND ARA/PAF HAVE SUGGESTED TO ALEX FIRFER THAT WE ACCEPT INVITATION. TRIP WOULD TAKE LESS THAN A DAY. IN LIGHT OF THE AREA AND PROMISED TURNOUT I WILL PLAN TO ACCEPT ON MONDAY UNLESS YOU JUDGE OTHERWISE.

9. GEDDA STORY. LARRY JACKLEY CALLED THIS MORNING CONCERNING TWO VERSIONS OF THE GEDDA ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN WASHINGTON STAR AND LOS ANGELES TIMES YESTERDAY. HE EXPRESSED THE COLLECTIVE CHAGRIN OF THE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE SUPPORT GROUP AND THE HOPE THAT THE STORY WOULD NOT INFER WITH OUR EXISTING CLOSE COOPERATION. KISSINGER

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